China's offer to improve relation with India

1686. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned 'China keen to revive ties" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 30th October, 1991;

(b) whether the Chinese are keen to revive the age old relations with India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chinese Government have expressed their desire for the development of good neighbourly ties and friendly relations with India on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

(c) Government are sincerely committed to seeking further improvement in India-China relations and to strengthening mutual understanding, dialogue and cooperation with China in all fields.

India's plea for Reforms in UN

1687. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the recent UN General Assembly meetings Government of India pleaded for structural and functional reform in the organisation and working of the UNO in the context of recent global developments culminating in end of the cold war, and the need for further democratisation of the functioning of its various organs;

(b) if so, the details of the reforms proposed; and

(c) the response of the UN Assembly and major members of the UN thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 26, 1991, the External Affairs Minister referred to the current efforts at reform of the United Nations and stated that these should include meausres to make decision-making processes at the UN, particularly the Security Council, more democratic and transparent. He also urged early examination of proposals for an expansion of the Security Council, to reflect the increased membership of the UN and to ensure a more equitable and balanced representation of the members of the UN in the Council.

(c) A number of countries support these proposals. The Meeting of the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers at Accra in September 1991 has also endorsed these proposals.

Demand of Chittagong Hill Tracks Refugees

1688. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of refugees from Chittagong Hill Tracks in Bangladesh visited New Delhi in October, 1991 calling upon Indian Government and other international organisations to intervene and stop further settlement of outsiders and to check out the ownership of the land illegally occupied by non-tribals under officials and Military sponsorships in the Chittagong Hill Tracks in Bangladesh with a view to ensuring early return of these refugees to their homeland; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) A delegation of Chakma refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, who are presently in relief camps in Tripura, met with Indian authorities in New Delhi in September, 1991 and presented a memorandum. The memorandum, *inter alia*, calls for the restoration of land occupied by non-tribals to the original owners and for the withdrawal of all military and paramilitary forces from the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

(b) The Government considers the Chakmas' demands relating to the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as an internal matter of Bangladesh. As regards the Chakma refugees in Tripura, we would like them to return voluntarily to their homes in Bangladesh at the earliest. We have repeatedly taken up the matter with the Bangladesh Government and requested them to take necessary steps which will give these refugees the confidence to return to their homes voluntarily and at the earliest.

Pakistani charges against India in the matter of Kashmir

1689. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affair, Mr. M. Saddique Khan Kanju in his recent address to the UN General Assembly on September 30, 1991 charged India with repression of the people of Kashmir, denying them the so-called right of self-determination and intransigent attitude;

(b) whether he also contested India's assertion that violence in Kashmir was engineered by Pakistan and claimed that the uprising in the State was entirely indigenous and spontaneous; and

(c) if so, what was India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.

(c) The Indian representative responded the same day and effectively countered all these charges and allegations. He drew attention to Pakistan's open interference in India's internal affairs and highlighted its support to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Amount released for the maintenance of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh

1690. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the amount released by the Central Government to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1990-91 and 1991-92 for the maintenance of national highways in the State;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amount released is insufficient for the maintenance of national highways in the State; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The amount released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the maintenance of National Highways during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs
1990-91	1328.28
1991-92	1007.22 (as on date)

(b) The requirements for maintenance and repair of National Highways are worked out on the basis of approved norms devised by a High